2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

20 May 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

Implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by Italy

1. Italy considers the NPT as the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI. Italy is thus fully committed to the preservation of the integrity of the NPT, the strengthening of its implementation and to its universalization.

2. Italy acknowledges the importance of the improved and strengthened Review Process, supports the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference as well as the Decisions and Resolution adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference and recognizes that developments of serious concern have occurred in the field of nuclear proliferation and terrorism since the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

3. Italy remains deeply convinced that a multilateralist approach to security, including disarmament and non-proliferation, is the best way to maintain international order, peace and stability.

4. Since compliance with existing multilateral norms and rules is essential for their credibility and effectiveness, the possibility of concretely verifying compliance and detecting violations is of paramount importance. In this context, the importance of verification mechanisms and systems has to be acknowledged: best use has to be made of existing verification mechanisms and systems, and their improvement has to be sought; furthermore, the establishment of additional international verification instruments has to be pursued as feasible. Italy considers the IAEA Additional Protocols to be an integral part of the IAEA Safeguards System. Thus, consistently with the EU position, Italy considers that the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements, together with the Additional Protocols, constitute the verification standard and calls for universal adherence to them. Italy has ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol, which entered into force on 30 April 2004.

*

05-35357 (E) 310505

5. Italy is a member of all the export control regimes for nuclear and nuclear-related items and technology, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Zangger Committee (ZC) and considers that they play an important role in pursuance of the NPT non-proliferation goals by introducing guidelines to ensure that exports of nuclear materials, equipment and technologies and related dual-use items are subject to appropriate surveillance and control.

6. Italy welcomes the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 and supports the work of the Committee of the Security Council established pursuant to resolution 1540 in promoting global implementation of this resolution.

7. Furthermore, Italy actively participates in the "Proliferation Security Initiative" (PSI) since its launching in May 2003. PSI is aimed at helping prevention and interdiction of illegal procurement and trafficking activities in WMDs and related materials and technology.

*

8. Italy shares the objectives enshrined in article VI of the NPT and encourages negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. Disarmament is indeed one of the pillars of the NPT. We will continue, together with our EU partners, to look forward to further systematic and progressive efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

9. Italy appreciates and encourages efforts deployed by the two major nuclear-weapons States to reduce their respective strategic arsenals since the end of the cold war. In this context, Italy welcomes the ratification of the 2002 Moscow Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. It is an important step in the context of international security and a contribution to the efforts of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

10. Italy can assure its commitment to an early entry into force of the CTBT. Italy is one of the original signatories of the Treaty and through its ratification is committed to the fully operational functioning of the Provisional Technical Secretariat. Through the European Union, Italy is actively involved in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty, and the confirmation of the existing moratoriums. One of the Monitoring Stations of the International Monitoring System is located in Italy, as well as one of the Radionuclide Laboratories.

11. Italy believes that a consensus needs to be ,actively sought within the Conference on Disarmament on a programme of work. As a matter of priority it would certainly have a positive effect on the NPT Review Process, particularly through the negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT). The objective of an early commencement and prompt conclusion of such a negotiation remains a fundamental objective for Italy. For this reason Italy has spared no effort to encourage in the Conference on Disarmament an agreement on a balanced programme of work which would allow such negotiation to start as soon as possible. Negotiations should address the issue of verification. Italy calls on all States to declare and uphold a moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear

weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and welcomes the action of those of the five nuclear-weapon States which have decreed the relevant moratorium.

*

12. Within the United Nations framework, at the fifty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Italy sponsored or co-sponsored the following resolutions dealing with nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament:

- 59/60 Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification
- 59/76 A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons
- 59/80 Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD
- 59/81 The Conference on Disarmament decision (CD/1547) of 11 August 1998 to establish, under item 1 of its agenda entitled "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament", an ad hoc committee to negotiate, on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator (CD/1299) and the mandate contained therein, a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices
- 59/108 Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

*

13. Italy recognizes the importance, from the point of view of nuclear disarmament, of the programmes aiming at the destruction and elimination of nuclear weapons and the safe disposition of fissile materials within the framework of the Cooperative Threat Reduction programmes, such as the G-8 Global Partnership initiative. These programmes, in which Italy actively participates, are aimed at promoting WMDs destruction as well as the control and security of sensitive materials, related facilities and expertise and are additional tools to deal with disarmament and non-proliferation issues as well as to strengthen the fight against terrorists seeking to acquire WMDs.

14. As a matter of fact, the significant reductions of nuclear weapons through multilateral, bilateral and unilateral nuclear disarmament and arms limitation treaties and processes in the past decades have brought to the attention of the international community that disarmament engagements are meaningless unless the weapons involved are either physically destroyed or appropriately disposed of.

15. At a time in which nuclear proliferation is a growing threat to international peace and security and the risk that terrorists may seek to possess either fissile material or even nuclear weapons, the Cooperative Threat Reduction should be considered as a new, additional way to address the problem of nuclear proliferation and disarmament. Thus, Italy believes that the nuclear component of the Cooperative Threat Reduction initiative is relevant to the NPT process and strengthens the Treaty both under article VI and under article I. The deactivation of thousands of deployed nuclear warheads under this programme is an effective measure relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament not only under the NPT but also under the Principles and Objectives of 1995 and the 13 practical steps of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.